

Document Based Question – Cold War

Using the documents provided and your prior knowledge, *discuss the development of the United States foreign policy on containing communism.*

DOCUMENT 1

At the present moment in world history nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is to often not a free one. One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom of political oppression. The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio, fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms.

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.

-Truman Doctrine, 1947

QUESTIONS:

1. Describe what Truman believes government should look like? What two different choices, in terms of type of government, is Truman referring to?
2. What does Truman believe the role of the U.S. should be in regards to countries resisting communism?

DOCUMENT 2

To promote world peace and the general welfare, national interest, and foreign policy of the United States through economic, financial, and other measures necessary to the maintenance of the strength and stability of the United States...

The restoration or maintenance in European countries...rests largely upon the establishment of sound economic conditions, stable international economic relationships, and the achievement by the countries of Europe of a healthy economy independent of extraordinary outside assistance...

-Marshall Plan, 1948

QUESTIONS:

3. How will the United States help European recovery after World War II?



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DOCUMENT 3

...First of all, you have the specific value of a locality in its production of the materials that the world needs. Then you have the possibility that many human beings pass under a dictatorship that is inimical [opposed] to the free world. Finally, you have broader considerations that might follow what you would call the “falling domino” principle. You have a row of dominos set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly. So you could have a beginning of disintegration that would have the most profound influences...when we come to the possible sequence of events, the loss of Indochina, of Burma, of Thailand, of the Peninsula, and Indonesia following...you are talking about millions and millions of people.

-Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954

QUESTIONS:

4. What is the “falling domino” theory?
 5. What countries would be affected by this principle?
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“Unpack” the prompt and plan your response in a graphic organizer below; write your final draft on your own paper.