

Q2. Summarize the ideas & views expressed by Kennan. How did these views shape U.S. containment Policy during Cold war?

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Introduction:

George F. Kennan was U.S. diplomat at the U.S. embassy at Moscow, when he sent a long telegram, 8000 words, to the United States government.

This telegram contained his views and ideas ^{regarding} ~~about~~ Soviet union expansion plans. His ideas formed the basis of policy to contain Soviet union and a cornerstone for U.S. foreign & military decisions. policy for next 30 years.

Ideas & Views of Kennan:

February 1946, Kennan wrote a long telegram to Washington D.C., in which he maintained that the Soviet leader believed the only way to protect Soviet union was to destroy its rivals & nations and their influence over weaker nations.

Furthermore, he claimed Soviet Union to be totalitarian bureaucracy, which was unable to accept the prospect of peaceful co-existence with the United States. So, he advised that the best way to thwart Soviet ^{plans} ~~influence~~ for the world was to contain Soviet influence through economic policy. What this meant was that contain Soviet influence in areas where it already exists and prevent its political expansion in new regions.

This strategy was called the containment policy and was adopted by different president. Under different presidents it was interpreted differently but accomplished same goal. For example; Truman era as Truman Doctrine, Eisenhower era as Dominoe theory etc. It was published in "Foreign Affairs" under the pseudonym "X", and came to be known as "X-article".

Truman doctrine of 1947 was directly

influenced by containment policy, which aimed to support Greece and Turkey in form of financial assistance, weaponry, and troops to help fight communism. The doctrine was further expanded to include any state fighting against communism.

Furthermore, the Marshall plan proposed by secretary of state George C. Marshall in 1948 was also an extension of the containment policy. It was aimed at containing soviet influence in Europe by providing a recovery program to european nations suffering from the devastating effects of the WWII.

Under Eisenhower administration this strategy was extended, as communist governments came into power in different areas of the world, and was known as Domino theory.

Dominoe Theory:

This theory stated that if Soviet influence is not contained, the neighbors of communist nations would likely

succumb to the same dangerous ideology. Like dominoes toppling over, every nation in that region would eventually be controlled over by Soviet Union.

National Security Act, 1947:

To contain Soviet influence, it was necessary to mount a strong military offense & defense. In pursuit of this goal the military was reorganized under National Security Act, 1947.

Government security matters were streamlined by creation of National Security Council and CIA was established for surveillance and espionage in foreign nations.

Creation of NATO, 1949:

In June 1948, Soviet Union placed Berlin under blockade, hoping to starve city into submission. ^{In} April 1949, North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed, an alliance pledging its members to mutual defense, in event of attack, against Soviet Union.

The containment policy was used to justify the interventions in Korea, and Vietnam.

During Truman era, the National Security Council proposed memorandum 68 which suggested that Truman quadruple military spending to contain Soviet influence.

Furthermore, Eisenhower's Secretary of State John Dulles devised a "New Look" strategy to contain Soviet & gain back what had already been lost.

It embraced a nuclear "massive retaliation" plan for a nuclear ~~first~~^{response} strike to a first Soviet strike so devastating that attackers would not be able to respond. This was labelled "Mutually Assured Destruction".

Eisenhower Doctrine:

It was also influenced by containment and pledged support to any government fighting communist insurgencies in the Middle East. For example, he sent

50,000 marines to Lebanon to forestall an anti-western takeover.

CIA operations:

Containment turned into covert operations interventions like, CIA tried to remove Fidel Castro, communist leader of Cuba, by training insurgents and providing them support to create uprising in Cuba.

In addition to this, CIA's covert "Operation PBSUCCESS", ~~to~~ indicate its involvement in the infamous 1954 Guatemala coup.

CIA plotted to overthrow Mossadegh, Iranian premier, because his actions brought him into conflict with ^{Pro} western elite of Iran & the Shah. CIA worked with Pro-Shah ~~to~~ forces and helped organize coup attempt against Mossadegh.

On 19 August 1953, Shah returned & signed over 40% of Iran's oil fields to United States.

Under Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, the containment evolved into peaceful coexistence & arms control negotiations through treaties like ~~Salt~~ SALT I and II, especially after U.S. overreach in Vietnam.

Furthermore, in 1980s Reagan administration was characterized by the Reagan Doctrine which was aimed at supporting anti-communist insurgents wherever they might be & actively push back the influence of Soviet Union.

End of Cold War:

Continued efforts to contain the Soviet Union over the period of ~~almost~~ 46 years exhausted the Soviet system.

In 1991, the Soviet Union dismantled and it marked the success of the long term containment strategy.

Conclusion:

Containment policy was the guiding principle of U.S. foreign policy during

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the cold war, influencing diplomacy,
military engagements, intelligence operations,
& global alliances.

While effective in containing Soviet
influence, it also led to U.S. intervention
in long wars resulting in loss of troops
and garnering resentment among the
American public.

