

Q In what ways did the Marshall plan, the dividing of the Berlin, the communist takeover of power in Czechoslovakia and formation of NATO contribute to the development of the cold war?

## I INTRODUCTION:

After the two major wars, Europe was caught in another war. Unlike the traditional war, cold war was rather the war of ideologies than of states. Many prominent and key events in the history paved the path for cold war. The first incident was Marshall plan, which created division among states. It provoked states to decide whom they side with. This was followed by most obvious events like Berlin divide and communist take over of Czechoslovakia, which made the cold war much obvious to all. Lastly, many scholars believed that NATO also played role in cold war. All mentioned events played their role in starting a cold war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

## II EVENTS LEAD TO DEVELOPMENT OF COLD WAR:

Following are the events that are primarily responsible for contributing to the development of cold war.



### III. A. Marshall Plan:

After the great war, Europe was devastated with abysmal conditions. Europe is now faced with a daunting task of building their economical and political systems. The U.S. came to their aid with an economic plan of providing funds to different states in Europe, which came to be known as the Marshall Plan.

#### III. A. i) Funds provided to create states conducive to democratic development:

In the past, it had been witnessed that communism won favour among people facing harsh economic and social conditions. The scholars argued that the U.S. provided funds to European states to ensure conditions are favourable enough for a democratic system to develop. This is against the very ideology the Soviets wanted to promote, contributing to the development of the cold war.

#### III. A. ii) Economic strategy used to make allies:

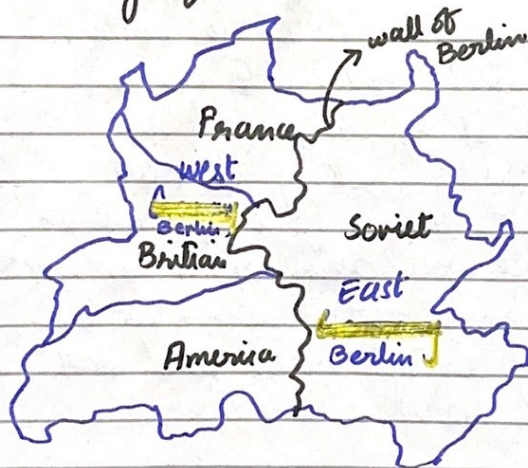
The U.S. wanted allies now that the war is over and international politics needed to be shaped. Analysts believe that the U.S. used financial means to attract the support of states in Europe. H.L. Peacock in his book, 'The history of Europe' mentions the purpose of the Marshall Plan to befriend European states. This act sowed the seeds of the cold war.



### III.A.iii) Soviet was denied funds:

Like other European nations Soviet also fought in the second world war and gained several losses. After the economic proposal by the U.S. Soviet asked for \$6 billion loan but was denied. It was made conditional that the Soviet union settled the matter regarding the aftermath of war. Soviet union denied and was in turn denied of financial aid.

### III.B. Dividing of Berlin



After the second world war, Berlin was divided into East Berlin and west Berlin. The east Berlin was handed over to the Soviet union, whereas, the west Berlin was divided among France, Britain and The U.S.



### III.B.i) Stalin emphasized for undivided Berlin

At the conference of Yalta and Potsdam conference, the powers voted for having Germany divided. Their decision is to also divide Berlin. Stalin was against this decision as he wanted Berlin to remain undivided. The conferences made evident the opposing views of Soviet and other powers which later turned into opposing ideologies.

### III.B.ii) Blockade between East and West Berlin:

The three allied powers decided to unite their part of West Berlin into a single economic unit. Stalin condemned this and cut harshly by blocking all rail, road, and means of communication between East and West Berlin. Stalin remained firm on punishment for about a year. The war was nearly averted but the cold war started between Soviet and U.S.

### III.C.) Takeover of Czechoslovakia:

Czechoslovakia was an independent state bearing various ethnic groups. The Soviet influence spread there and Soviets have been successful in implementing the communist government there.



### III.C.i) Soviet seeking allies in European states:

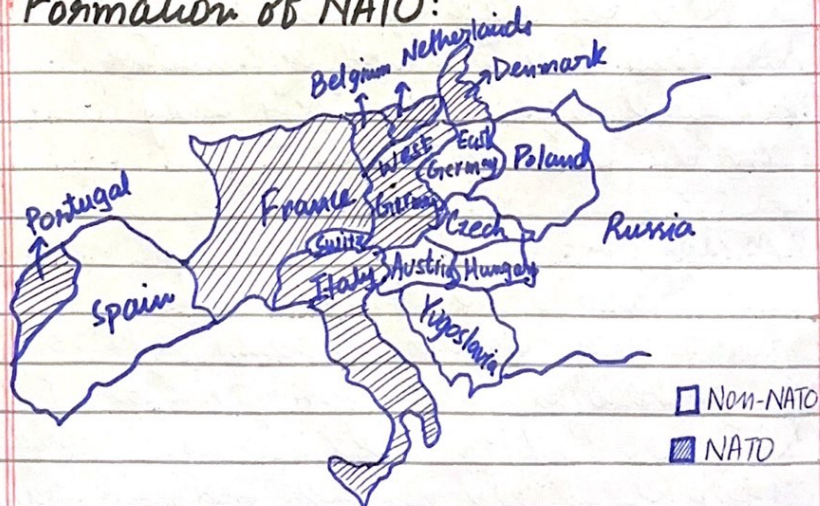
The Soviet, like the U.S., were also seeking allies in eastern Europe. The Czechoslovakia provided Soviet with faithful alliance.

The U.S. allies formation had taken indirect way, whereas Soviet openly seek allies by spreading their ideology. This intensified the cold war, which has started on global stage.

### III.C.ii) Obvious spreading of Communism:

By establishing the communist government in Czechoslovakia, the Soviet made their ambition of spreading the communism clear. The U.S. responded to this. U.S. President Harry S. Truman said that democracy and communism can not live in one world. The U.S. was reacting to this, accelerating the cold war.

### III.D. Formation of NATO:





### III.D.i) Counter to spread of Communism:

NATO was a political and military organization that was formed to counter the spread of communism. The U.S. signed an agreement with other European states stating that attack against any one member would be considered attack against all. The cold war has already been on stage. This military initiative intensified the cold war, forming clear two blocs. Lord Hastings described purpose of NATO as, 'To keep Soviet out, Americans in and Germans down'. The NATO played important role in intensifying the cold war.

### III.D.ii) Warsaw pact formed counter to NATO:

The Warsaw pact was formed as counter to NATO, which is described by many as eastern NATO. The formation of NATO set stage for Warsaw pact. With these two military organizations, the world has distinctively being divided into two blocs.

### IV Conclusion:

To sum up the discussion, the Marshall plan, dividing of Berlin, Takeover of Czechoslovakia along with formation of NATO set stage for cold war and further intensified it. There has been ~~instances~~ instances where war seems to be nearly averted. These events were primarily responsible for cold war breakout.