

Winston Churchill

Speech by Winston Churchill
Winston Churchill delivered this famous speech at Westminster College in Missouri on March 5, 1946.

...From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has **descended** across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia; all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet **sphere**, and all are subject, in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and in some cases increasing measure of control from Moscow...

Source: Internet Modern History Sourcebook

GLOSSARY FOR EXCERPT:

descended—fallen over or covered

sphere—an area of interest or influence

Joseph Stalin

Joseph Stalin's response to Churchill
Printed in the New York Times (p.4) on March
14, 1946 (interview with Pravda)

... Mr. Churchill now stands in the position of a **firebrand** of war. And Mr. Churchill is not alone here. He has friends not only in England but also in the United States of America.

In this respect, one is reminded remarkably of Hitler and his friends. Hitler began to set war loose by announcing his racial theory, declaring that only people speaking the German language represent a fully valuable nation. Mr. Churchill begins to set war loose, also by a racial theory, maintaining that only nations speaking the English language are fully valuable nations, called upon to decide the destinies of the entire world.

The German racial theory brought Hitler and his friends to the conclusion that the Germans, as the only fully valuable nation, must rule over other nations. The English racial theory brings Mr. Churchill and his friends to the conclusion that nations speaking the English language, being

the only fully valuable nations, should rule over the remaining nations of the world....

As a result of the German invasion, the Soviet Union has **irrevocably** lost in battles with the Germans, and also during the German occupation and through the expulsion of Soviet citizens to German slave labor camps, about 7,000,000 people. In other words, the Soviet Union has lost in men several times more than Britain and the United States together.

It may be that some quarters are trying to push into **oblivion** these sacrifices of the Soviet people which insured the liberation of Europe from the Hitlerite yoke.

But the Soviet Union cannot forget them. One can ask therefore, what can be surprising in the fact that the Soviet Union, in a desire to ensure its security for the future, tries to achieve that these countries should have governments whose relations to the Soviet Union are loyal? How can one, without having lost one's reason, qualify these peaceful aspirations of the Soviet Union as "**expansionist tendencies**" of our Government? . . .

Source: Internet Modern History Sourcebook

GLOSSARY FOR EXCERPT:

firebrand—one who speaks forcefully for a cause

irrevocably—unable to change

oblivion—the state of being forgotten

expansionist tendencies—having the desire to grow or achieve more power

Stalin continues on next page.

Harry Truman

Truman Doctrine (March 12, 1947).

This excerpted speech, given by President Harry Truman before a joint session of Congress, outlined the president's plans for economic aid to Greece and Turkey.

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 our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes...

It is necessary only to glance at a map to realize that the **survival** and **integrity** of the Greek nation are of grave importance in a much wider situation. If Greece should fall under the control of an armed minority, the effect upon its neighbor, Turkey, would be immediate and serious. Confusion and disorder might well spread throughout the entire Middle East.

Moreover, the disappearance of Greece as an independent state would have a **profound** effect upon those countries in Europe whose peoples are struggling against great difficulties to maintain their freedoms and their independence while they repair the damages of war.

Source: Internet Modern History Sourcebook

GLOSSARY FOR EXCERPT:

subjugation—control

armed minorities—

Truman means a small group that takes over through force

survival—ability to live

integrity—soundness or completeness

profound—important or deep

George C. Marshall

Marshall Plan (June 5, 1947)

This excerpted speech, given by Secretary of State George C. Marshall, outlined the need for American economic aid to western Europe.

...The truth of the matter is that Europe's **requirements** for the next 3 or 4 years of foreign food and other essential products—principally from America—are so much greater than her present ability to pay that she must have **substantial** help or face economic, social, and political **deterioration** of a very grave character...

Aside from the **demoralizing** effect on the world at large and the possibilities of **disturbances** arising as a result of the desperation of the people concerned, the consequences to the economy of the United States should be apparent to all. It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political **stability** and no assured peace. Our policy is directed not against any country or **doctrine** but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos. Its purpose should be the **revival** of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions exist.

GLOSSARY FOR EXCERPT:

requirements—needs

substantial—great

deterioration—decline or fall apart

demoralizing—taking away the spirit

disturbances—lack of order

stability—order

doctrine—a set of beliefs, especially religious or political

revival—a return to working order

National Security Council

National Security Council Paper 68
(April 7, 1950)

This top-secret document, an internal memo of the newly formed National Security Council, argued that only the United States could stop Soviet expansion. It advocates the policy of "containment."

As for the policy of "containment," it is one which seeks by all means short of war to (1) block further **expansion** of Soviet power, (2) expose the **falsities** of Soviet **pretensions**, (3) induce a **retraction** of the Kremlin's control and influence, and (4) in general, so **foster** the seeds of destruction within the Soviet system that the Kremlin is brought at least to the point of **modifying** its behavior to conform to generally accepted international standards.

...It is quite clear from Soviet theory and practice that the Kremlin seeks to bring the free world under its **dominion** by the methods of the cold war. The preferred technique is to **subvert** by **infiltration** and **intimidation**. Every institution of our society is an instrument which it is sought to **stultify** and turn against our purposes. Those that touch most closely our material and moral strength are obviously the prime targets, labor unions, civic enterprises, schools, churches, and all media for influencing opinion. The effort is not so much to make them serve obvious Soviet ends as to prevent them from serving our ends, and thus to make them sources of confusion in our economy, our culture, and our body politic...

GLOSSARY FOR EXCERPT:

containment—to prevent or limit the advance, spread, or influence of

expansion—the process of growth: the opposite of containment

falsities—lies

pretensions—appearances

retraction—a pulling back

foster—to encourage growth

modifying—changing

dominion—rule

subvert—to ruin or corrupt from within

infiltration—enter secretly

intimidation—threat of force

stultify—to make useless