1946 – Churchill’s ‘Iron curtain’ speech March 5th
- The ‘iron curtain’ speech is where former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill condemns the Soviet Union’s policies in Europe and declares, “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent”
- This speech highlighted the divide between the communist West and capitalist East and the fear of the spread of communism.

1947 – The Truman Doctrine March 12th
- Truman believed Stalin would try to conquer more land without having to declare war. Also, after WW2, the poor economies of European countries might have made communism more appealing.
  - The doctrine sates:
    - The world had a choice between communist tyranny and democratic freedom.
    - America had a responsibility to fight for liberty wherever it was threatened.
    - America would send troops and economic resources to help governments that were being threatened by communism.
    - Communism should not be allowed to grow and gain territory.
  - Significance of the Truman Doctrine:
    - Suggested US had a responsibility to protect the world.
    - Marked the reversal in the US policy of 1919 isolationism.
    - Truman showed he was committed to containment of communism.

1947 – The Marshall Plan June 5th
- $13 billion of American money (and $17 billion by 1953) committed to rebuild Europe and steer it away from communism.
- 16 countries took the offer for the money as long as they allowed free trade with America.
- Stalin barred any countries in Eastern Europe from receiving the Marshall plan; he argued the plan was the first step in creating a military alliance that would wage war on the USSR.

1947 – Cominform (The Communist Information Bureau) September
- Stalin wanted to extend his control so established Cominform.
- Cominform was an international organisation that represented all the communist parties across Europe and brought them under USSR direction.
- Cominform rejected The Marshall plan.
- Cominform tried to ensure satellite states followed Soviet foreign policy aims and introduced Soviet style economic policies (Collectivism of agriculture, complete state control of industry, countries not self sufficient).
- Cominform led to soviet satellite states refusing Marshall Aid, communist parties’ demonstration against Marshall Aid (2 million French workers went on strike in the winter of 1947 demanding the French government reject Marshall Aid) and was used to test loyalty – government ministers investigated and removed if disloyal.

1948 – Paris Conference
- European Leaders gathered at the conference to discuss Marshall Aid. The USSR representative walked out claiming America was trying to split Europe into “two camps” and that Marshall Aid was the first step in creating a military alliance to attack the USSR.

1948 June – 1949 May – The Berlin Blockade
- The aim of the Berlin Blockade was to cut off West Germany from its Capital (Berlin) so that the West couldn’t get into or supply the capital.
- Stalin suspended all traffic into Berlin (road and rail) and disrupted electrical power from Soviet power plants to West Berlin – claimed a shortage of coal.
- President Truman responded with the Berlin Airlift. Allied planes transported supplies around the clock to the East of Berlin. Within weeks around a 1000 tonnes a day of food and supplies was being flown over. 170,000 tonnes over all during January 1949
- The air lift prevented the blockade from being successful and Truman responded peacefully, making Stalin’s blockade appear highly aggressive.

1949 – Transformation of the West and East September
- West Germany becomes The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)
- East Germany becomes The German Democratic Republic (GDR)