

## The Marshall Plan (1948)



When World War II ended in 1945, Europe lay in ruins: its cities were shattered; its economies were devastated; its people faced famine. In the two years after the war, the Soviet Union's control of Eastern Europe and the vulnerability (openness) of Western European countries to Soviet expansionism heightened the sense of crisis. The United States proposed to rebuild the continent in the interest of political stability and a healthy world economy. The foreign ministers of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the Soviet Union met in Moscow in March and April 1947 to discuss these looming problems. To meet this emergency, On June 5, 1947, Secretary of State, George C. Marshall called for American assistance in restoring the economic infrastructure of Europe because he realized that the U.S.S.R. would not cooperate. He called for the United States to provide economic assistance. On December 19, 1947, President Harry Truman sent Congress a message that followed Marshall's ideas to provide economic aid to Europe. Congress overwhelmingly passed the Economic Cooperation Act of 1948, and on April 3, 1948, President Truman signed the act that became known as the Marshall Plan.

Over the next four years, Congress appropriated (assigned) \$13.3 billion for European recovery. This plan restored the confidence of the European people in the economic future of their own countries. This aid provided much needed capital and materials that enabled Europeans to rebuild the continent's economy. For the United States, the Marshall Plan provided markets for American goods, created reliable trading partners, and supported the development of stable democratic governments in Western Europe.

The Allies, not including the U.S.S.R., unified the German former war zones they controlled. That part was called West Germany. In September of 1949, Western Germany was eligible for Marshall Plan funding. The Soviets controlled the part called East Germany.

At the time the United States saw the plan as being generous to Europe. The Soviet Union viewed it as interference.

### Marshall Plan: Country Data

Country	1950 Population (in thousands)	Total Marshall Plan Assistance (in millions of dollars)
Austria	6,935	677.8
Belgium & Luxembourg	8,935	559.3
Denmark	4,271	273.0
France	41,829	2,713.6
Germany, West	49,986	1,390.6
Greece	7,566	706.7
Ireland	2,963	147.5
Italy	47,105	1,508.8
Netherlands	10,114	1,083.5
Norway	3,265	255.3
United Kingdom	50,127	3,189.8

# \_\_\_\_\_ 's Plan

**(your name)**

1. What should Europe do with excess weapons?
2. How can we help those who lost their homes and their place of business?
3. How can Europe rebuild their cities? Where do they begin?
4. Who pays for the damages?
5. How can we feed millions of starving people?
6. Should America get involved? Why or Why not?
7. What needs to be done?
8. How can America help?