

**THE COLD WAR****Primary Source**

President Truman spelled out his thoughts on opposing communist expansion in a speech to a joint session of Congress. He told Congress that the United States was the only country that could help Greece and Turkey remain free from communism. He spoke of the United Nations' role in maintaining the freedom and independence of its member nations. ♦ *Read the excerpt. Then answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.*

***The Truman Doctrine and American Foreign Policy***

As in the case of Greece, if Turkey is to have the assistance it needs, the United States must supply it. We are the only country able to provide that help.

I am fully aware of the broad implications involved if the United States extends assistance to Greece and Turkey, and I shall discuss these implications with you at this time.

One of the primary objectives of the foreign policy of the United States is the creation of conditions in which we and other nations will be able to work out a way of life free from coercion. This was a fundamental issue in the war with Germany and Japan. Our victory was won over countries which sought to impose their will, and their way of life, upon other nations.

To ensure the peaceful development of nations, free from coercion, the United States has taken a leading part in establishing the United Nations. The United Nations is designed to make possible lasting freedom and independence for all its members. We shall not realize our objectives, however, unless we are willing to help free peoples to maintain their free institutions and their national integrity against aggressive movements that seek to impose upon them totalitarian regimes. This is no more than a frank recognition that totalitarian regimes imposed on free peoples, by direct or indirect aggression, undermine the foundations of international peace and hence the security of the United States.

*—President Truman, Address before Joint Session  
of Congress, March 12, 1947*

**Questions to Think About**

1. Why, according to Truman, is the United States the country that must help Greece and Turkey?
2. What does President Truman say was one of the fundamental issues in the United States' war with Japan and Germany?
3. What is it that the United States must be willing to do in order to achieve its foreign policy objectives?
4. **Analyze Cause and Effect** What, according to Truman, happens to the rest of the world when a totalitarian regime is imposed on a country?