

Document B: The Truman Doctrine (Modified)

The United States has received from the Greek Government an urgent appeal for financial and economic assistance...Greece is in desperate need of financial and economic assistance to enable it to resume purchases of food, clothing, fuel, and seeds.

The very existence of the Greek state is today threatened by the terrorist activities of several thousand armed men, led by Communists, who defy the government's authority. . . . Greece must have assistance if it is to become a self-supporting and self-respecting democracy. The United States must supply this assistance. . . . No other nation is willing and able to provide the necessary support for a democratic Greek government.

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.

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. . . . Should we fail to aid Greece and Turkey in this fateful hour, the effect will be far reaching to the West as well as to the East.

The free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedoms. If we falter in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world. And we shall surely endanger the welfare of this nation.

Great responsibilities have been placed upon us by the swift movement of events.

Source: Excerpt from the "Truman Doctrine Speech," delivered by President Truman to Congress on March 12, 1947.

Truman Doctrine

1. Close reading: Why did Truman believe Greece needed American aid in 1947?
2. Context: What does Truman mean when he claims, "Should we fail to aid Greece and Turkey in this fateful hour, the effect will be far reaching to the West as well as to the East"?
3. Close reading: Does Truman present American policy as offensive or defensive? What words or phrases does Truman use to present policy this way?

Step on It, Doc!



Source: Justus, Minneapolis Star, 1947 (adapted)

1. What plan is the cartoon referencing?
-How do you know?
-Who developed the plan?
2. According to the cartoon, where was Congress headed?
-Why was the U.S. Congress headed there?
3. Do you think this was a good plan? Why?