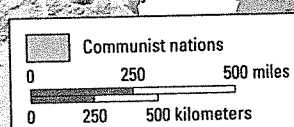
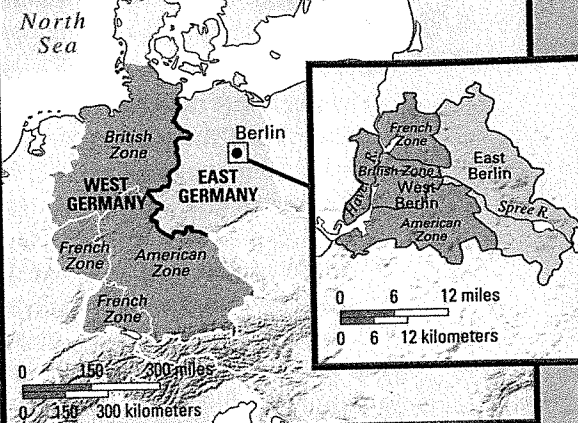


# The Iron Curtain, 1949

INTERACTIVE

## Postwar Germany, 1949



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

- 1. Location** Which communist nations were located between the Soviet Union and the iron curtain?
- 2. Human-Environment Interaction** Why did the Soviet Union want to control these nations?

Stalin installed communist governments in Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Poland. These countries became known as **satellite nations**, countries dominated by the Soviet Union. In early 1946, Stalin gave a speech announcing that communism and capitalism were incompatible—and that another war was inevitable.

**UNITED STATES ESTABLISHES A POLICY OF CONTAINMENT** Faced with the Soviet threat, American officials decided it was time, in Truman's words, to stop "babying the Soviets." In February 1946, George F. Kennan, an American diplomat in Moscow, proposed a policy of **containment**. By containment he meant taking measures to prevent any extension of communist rule to other countries. This policy began to guide the Truman administration's foreign policy. ©

Europe was now divided into two political regions, a mostly democratic Western Europe and a communist Eastern Europe. In March 1946, Winston Churchill traveled to the United States and gave a speech that described the situation in Europe.

### MAIN IDEA

#### Analyzing Motives

- © What were Truman's goals in establishing the policy of containment?

### A PERSONAL VOICE WINSTON CHURCHILL

"A shadow has fallen upon the scenes so lately lighted by the Allied victory. . . . 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. . . . All these famous cities and the populations around them lie in . . . the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and . . . increasing measure of control from Moscow."

—"Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Missouri



Winston Churchill,  
Prime Minister  
of Great Britain

The phrase "**iron curtain**" came to stand for the division of Europe. When Stalin heard about the speech, he declared in no uncertain terms that Churchill's words were a "call to war."