

Warm-Up: Marshall Plan



At the end of WWII, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as the leaders of the world. The United States, however, had long distrusted the Soviet Union and its communist government. Communists openly rejected the idea of religion and private property. Soviet leaders bragged that they would spread these ideas throughout the world.

For their part, the Soviets distrusted the Americans as well. They felt that America's arrangement to give money to European nations to rebuild (called the Marshall Plan) was just a plan to bribe the countries of Europe and stop the spread of communism. Many of the countries of Eastern Europe that the Soviet Union controlled such as Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Poland were forced to turn down American money under pressure from Stalin.

1. According to the cartoon, how does "Stalin's Marshall Plan" help farmers plow their fields in Eastern Europe?
2. How is this different from how farmers plow their fields using America's Marshall Plan in Western Europe?
3. Why did the American and British leaders distrust the Soviet Union (three reasons)?
4. Why do you think that Stalin refused to allow Eastern European countries (Poland, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia) from accepting Marshall Plan money to rebuild?