**Unit 9: Challenges of the Post War World (1946-1968)**

[Topic 1: The Marshall Plan](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=09&topic=01)

Source 6, “George Marshall and The Marshall Plan”

This site explains why US Army General George Marshall wanted the United States to help Europe recover from World War II.

From The Library of Congress’ America’s Story Project:

After World War II, George Marshall thought his service to his country was over. He was wrong. The day after his retirement in 1945, President Harry S. Truman asked Marshall to go to China for a diplomatic mission, and in January 1947, the Truman appointed Marshall as secretary of state. In this new job, Marshall toured war-torn Europe that winter and was shocked by what he discovered. What do you think he saw?

**George Marshall and the Marshall Plan**   
In Europe, Marshall saw families and children who had no shelter, no food, and no hope. The terrible fighting had ended, but the devastation of war remained. Marshall was a student of history. He knew desperate people often do desperate things. He knew the United States had to act quickly to prevent another war. But what could our country do?

**George Marshall and the Marshall Plan**   
Marshall returned to the United States with a bold new idea. In a speech at Harvard University, he urged Americans to help the people of Europe. He then worked hard to persuade Congress to give $13 billion in aid to European countries -- even to Germany, which had been our enemy in the war. The damaged nations used this money to repair factories, improve farming, rebuild schools, and restore towns. The Marshall Plan put these countries on a path of lasting peace. For this great achievement, Marshall received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

**Emerging ESOL / Reader**

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**Vocabulary**

* **Secretary of State** - a special job that helps the president of the United States. The Secretary of State visits other leaders in their countries.

General George Marshall was an important help to the American president during World War II. He thought his work was over when the war ended. He was wrong. President Harry Truman asked him to go to China to tell wat was happening there. Then he made him Secretary of State for the USA. Marshall went all over Europe in 1947. He was shocked by what he saw.

1. What did George Marshall think about his work when the war ended?

George Marshall thought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Where did George Marshall go before he was Secretary of State? Why? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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3. Why did the new Secretary of State travel to Europe? What did he want to find out?

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**Intermediate ESOL / Reader**

**Unit 9: Challenges of the Post War World (1946-1968)**

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Source 6, “George Marshall and The Marshall Plan”

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**Vocabulary**

* **hopeless** – nothing will ever get better, things will always be very bad

After World War II, US Army General George Marshall thought his job for the United States was over. He was wrong. President Harry S. Truman sent Marshall to China, then made him Secretary of State of the USA. Marshall went all over Europe, looking at the mess made by the war. He was shocked.

**George Marshall and the Marshall Plan**

He saw families and children who had nothing to eat, nowhere to live and no hope for anything better. The war was over, but the mess and problems were not. Marshall knew about history. He knew that people felt lost and hopeless after a war. He knew they would do anything, even dangerous things, to make their lives better. Marshall didn’t want another war to start. He knew the United States had to do something fast to help the people in Europe.

1. Who were two very important people to the US after the war? What were their jobs? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What did George Marshall know about people after a war? How did he know?

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1. Why did the United States have to be the country to help Europe?

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**Advanced ESOL / Reader**

**Unit 9: Challenges of the Post War World (1946-1968)**

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Source 6, “George Marshall and The Marshall Plan”

This site explains why US Army General George Marshall wanted the United States to help Europe recover from World War II.

**Vocabulary**

* **devastation** - everything is destroyed
* **desperate** - extremely bad, serious, or dangerous
* **bold** - strong and brave
* **achievement** - a big, important job that is finished

After World War II, US Army General George Marshall thought his service to his country was over. He was wrong. The day after he retired in 1945, President Harry S. Truman asked Marshall to go to China, and in January 1947, Truman appointed Marshall as Secretary of State. Marshall toured war-torn Europe that winter and was shocked by what he discovered.

**George Marshall and the Marshall Plan**   
In Europe, Marshall saw families and children who had no shelter, no food, and no hope. The terrible fighting was over, but the devastation of war remained. Marshall was a student of history. He knew desperate people often do desperate things. He knew the United States had to act quickly to prevent another war.

Marshall returned to the United States with a bold new idea. In a speech at Harvard University, he asked Americans to help the people of Europe. He then worked hard to persuade Congress to give $13 billion in aid to European countries -- even to Germany, which had been our enemy in the war. The damaged countries used this money to repair factories, improve farming, and rebuild schools and towns. The Marshall Plan put these countries on a road to long-time peace. For this great achievement, Marshall won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

1. Write one thing that Marshall did in each of the years 1945, 1947, and 1953.

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1. Why did Marshall want to give money to Germany, our enemy in World War II?

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1. Did Marshall earn the Nobel Peace Price? Explain.

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| **BONUS** – Draw a timeline (without some dates) of Marshall’s work after World War II. Use pictures or words to show at least 5 important events. |