

Group B: Marshall Plan Model:

Following the end of WWII, much of Europe, both victor and vanquished, was ravaged. Infrastructures had been destroyed, millions killed, cities leveled. However, rather than punishing the German aggressors with billions of dollars in war reparations, the United States engaged in a massive campaign to rebuild Germany from the ground up. Germany is once again a world leader, and boasts one of the strongest economies and democracies in Europe. What would have happened if the US had left Germany to its own devices? How much of the success of the Marshall Plan is due to a sizeable military presence in Germany?

Extract from "Design for Reconstruction" Proposed Address for Secretary Marshall June 1947, drafted May 20, 1947:

"What will happen if we do not provide adequate funds and commodities for subsistence and reconstruction abroad? This, I think, is hardly questionable: what if adequate help from the United States is not forthcoming, many of our allies in the late war ... will be obliged the months to come to cease imports of food and reconstruction material. Should this happen, human want, economic collapse, political crisis, collapse of democratic institutions, growth of extremism, and perhaps loss of independence would in many countries quickly follow. Our hopes for peace and prosperity would quickly vanish. We would live in unprecedented isolation. We would live in growing poverty. We would live in growing fear."

<http://www.trumanlibrary.org/marshall/teach.htm#marshall>

Extract from George C. Marshall's speech to Harvard University, June 5, 1947:

"Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist. Such assistance, I am convinced, must not be on a piecemeal basis as various crises develop. Any assistance that this Government may render in the future should provide a cure rather than a mere palliative."

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/marshall/m11.html>