The traditional view of the origins of the Cold War is based on the premise that it was a conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union, sparked by ideological differences and economic competition. The West, led by the United States, was portrayed as defending democracy and free markets against the threat of communist expansion. Conversely, the Soviet Union was seen as promoting totalitarianism and imperialism.

However, this orthodox view has been challenged by revisionist historians. They argue that the Cold War was not a simple clash of ideologies but was influenced by a wide range of factors, including economic and political interests, and that the West was not solely motivated by ideological concerns. The Soviet Union was not seen as a monolithic entity, but as a collection of different states with various priorities and interests.

One of the key revisionist historians is Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., who has written extensively on the origins of the Cold War. In his work, Schlesinger argues that the Cold War was not inevitable and that it could have been avoided. He suggests that the West was not as willing to engage in a long-term commitment to contain communism as it was portrayed by the orthodox view.

Schlesinger cites several examples to support his argument. For instance, he points to the reaction of American leaders to the Soviet Union's acquisition of nuclear weapons. The United States, rather than taking a long-term perspective to contain the threat, initially responded with a desire for equal arms control. This was a clear indication that the United States was not prepared to engage in a protracted conflict.

In conclusion, the origins of the Cold War are complex and multifaceted. While ideological differences were certainly a factor, economic and political interests also played a significant role. The revisionist view offers a more nuanced understanding of the causes of the Cold War than the traditional one.
The Cold War: A Post-Revisionist View

William Appleman Williams (163)* p. 206-9, 277, 266-7, 278-9

The Cold War has been variously described as either the "Great Crisis" or the "Great American Century." It has been portrayed as a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union, with the former emerging as the victor. However, a closer examination of the events of the period reveals a more complex picture. The Cold War was not just a conflict between two superpowers; it was a reflection of broader historical trends and developments.

One of the key factors that shaped the Cold War was the perception of the Soviet Union as a threat. This perception was fueled by a variety of factors, including the Soviet Union's expansionist policies, its support for communist movements around the world, and its development of nuclear weapons. The United States, in turn, sought to contain the spread of communism and to preserve its own interests and values.

The Cold War also had a significant impact on the domestic politics of both the United States and the Soviet Union. In the United States, the Cold War led to the rise of a powerful internationalist wing within the Democratic Party, which advocated for a more active role in world affairs. At the same time, the Cold War also fueled anti-communist sentiments and the growth of the anti-communist movement, which played a significant role in American politics.

In the Soviet Union, the Cold War led to a reorientation of the country's foreign policy. The Soviet leadership, under the guidance of Nikita Khrushchev, sought to establish a more assertive foreign policy, which was seen as a means of challenging the United States and asserting Soviet power. This policy was characterized by a number of aggressive actions, including the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Cold War also had a significant impact on the economies of both the United States and the Soviet Union. The arms race between the two superpowers led to a massive increase in military spending, which had a significant impact on the economies of both countries. This spending also led to a focus on economic growth and development, which had a lasting impact on the economies of both countries.

In conclusion, the Cold War was a complex and multifaceted conflict that had a significant impact on the world and on the countries involved. While it is often portrayed as a simple conflict between two superpowers, it was in fact a reflection of broader historical trends and developments. The Cold War had a significant impact on the domestic politics of both the United States and the Soviet Union, and it also had a significant impact on the economies of both countries. It is a period of history that continues to be studied and debated by historians today.

The very heart of present security system

It is no less a matter of security than the maintenance of the world's equilibrium to be achieved through a just and workable system of international control. The establishment of such a system has been the constant aim of the United States. The United States proposes the creation of an International Atomic Energy Authority under the United Nations to deal with atomic energy and atomic power in a way that is consistent with the Charter of the United Nations.

The authority of the International Atomic Energy Authority, which should be constituted in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations, is intended to be in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations. The United States proposes that the International Atomic Energy Authority be constituted in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations.

The authority of the International Atomic Energy Authority is hereby constituted in accordance with the terms of the United Nations.
... hands should rise over the rest of the nations of the world, the condition that the English-speaking nations, as the only nation, must hold the power to save the world from tyrants. I am speaking now of the one act that has brought the nations of the world together. The German act that Hitler and his friends in the Nazi world, the German act that Hitler and his friends in the Nazi world, who are seeking to divide the rest of the world into two camps. The German act that Hitler and his friends in the Nazi world, who are seeking to divide the rest of the world into two camps.

Christian Civilization... Christian Civilization... Christian Civilization... Christian Civilization...

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The Secretary of State Bulletin, XV, 15 September 1946, excerpted in part...

... the President's proposal that the Allied Control Council be established in order to conduct German economic administration in such a way that the Germans can have a chance to conduct their own economy in order to improve their standard of living. The President's proposal is absolutely necessary for the moral and physical existence of the German people. The President's proposal will be adopted by Germany with her greater resources of iron and coal.

We respect the economic objectives of Germany. If Germany and other countries who have a chance to conduct their own economy in order to improve their standard of living are to be respected.

The exchange of commodities, persons, and ideas is helpful in introducing a free system of government in Germany. The Four Zones of Germany are not different.

The economic and political development of Germany is essential for maintaining German peace and security. Oppression of the industrial production to restrict the levels which the fighting powers agreed upon....

The conditions which now exist in Germany make it impossible for the German people to live in peace, to think for themselves, and to conduct their own economy in order to improve their standard of living. The President's proposal that the Allied Control Council be established in order to conduct German economic administration in such a way that the Germans can have a chance to conduct their own economy in order to improve their standard of living is absolutely necessary for the moral and physical existence of the German people. The President's proposal will be adopted by Germany with her greater resources of iron and coal.

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and we shall surely endanger the welfare of our Nation.
If we let in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world.

The free peoples of the world will not go up in arms to maintain their freedoms.

We must accept this challenge.

Rumors were the hope of a leader for a project like this.

The seeds of cooperation are now untamed by minority and war.

They are not to be used.

Free nations.

We believe that we must assist these peoples to work on their own destinies.

It is already evident that beyond the Third World States, Government can exist.

The European world, on its way to recover, the United States, in its efforts to reestablish the situation and its debt.

It is already evident that beyond the Third World States, Government can exist.

The European world, on its way to recover, the United States, in its efforts to reestablish the situation and its debt.

We are the people who are seeking the restoration of normal relations between nations.

The European way of life is based upon the will of majority freedom.

The European way of life is based upon the will of majority freedom.

One way of life is better than the other, and progress brings about change.

The European way of life is better than the other, and progress brings about change.

Mission.

President Truman deliberately set out in this speech before Congress on 12


V. M. Molotov, Problems of Soviet Policy, Speeches and Statements, April 1949

Document 2: The Truman Doctrine

March 12, 1947

President Truman, delivering a speech in this speech before Congress on 12


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which ignores and bypass the United Nations as well as by the measures taken by the United States Government which regard to Greece and Turkey. This is clearly proved by the measures of political pressure that is clearly pointed out in the economic resources which are used to influence the United Nations and other international measures, while the same three powers maintain the equally strong measures of political pressure and the renunciation of the powers of international collaboration and the clear renunciation of the powers of the United States Government to make any attempt to alter the situation by the United States Government in the event of a situation in which the United States Government have not a situation of its own. This expression of the fact was shown by the proclamation of the Marshall Plan.

The so-called Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine are patently...

Document 7: Yussinisky on the Truman Doctrine

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