

# The Truman Doctrine



The Truman Doctrine arose from a speech delivered by President Truman before a joint session of Congress on March 12, 1947.

At the time, the U.S. Government believed that the Soviet Union supported the Greek Communist war effort and worried that if the Communists prevailed in the Greek civil war, the Soviets would ultimately influence Greek policy. In 1946, Soviet efforts to force the Turkish Government into granting them bases in Turkey, forced Truman to intervene.

President Truman requested that Congress provide \$400,000,000 worth of aid to both the Greek and Turkish Governments and support the dispatch of American civilian and military personnel and equipment to the region.

Truman argued that a Communist victory in the Greek Civil War would risk the political stability of Turkey, which would risk the political stability of the Middle East. This could not be allowed. Truman also argued that the United States was compelled to assist "free peoples" in their struggles against "totalitarian regimes," because the spread of communism would "damage the foundations of international peace and the security of the United States." In the words of the Truman Doctrine, it became "the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures."



**Read the document and answer the questions. Record your answers on the graphic organizer.**

**Who:** who was the creator of the Truman Doctrine?

**What:** What is the Truman Doctrine?

**Where:** Where did the Truman Doctrine come from or where was it created/ where was it delivered?

**When:** When did the Truman Doctrine occur?

**Why:** Why did Truman establish the Truman Doctrine? What were its purposes/ main ideas?



"It should be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures."

- Harry S. Truman