

The Marshall Plan, June 5, 1947

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Secretary of State George Marshall proposes an aid program for Europe directed “against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos.”

...Europe's requirements for the next 3 or 4 years of foreign food and other essential products – principally from America – are so much greater than her present ability to pay that she must have substantial additional help, or face economic, social, and political deterioration of a very grave character...

.....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 that this government may render in the future should provide a cure rather than a mere palliative. Any government that is willing to assist in the task of recovery will find full cooperation; I am sure, on the part of the United States government. Any government which maneuvers to block recovery of other countries cannot expect help from us. Furthermore, governments, political parties, or groups which seek to perpetuate human misery in order to profit there from politically or otherwise will encounter the opposition of the United States.

What was the basis of the Marshall Plan? Humanitarianism? Anti-Communism? Economic self-interest? Present a case for each of these?