

# NATO and the Warsaw Pact: A Map Study

As the curtain came down on the Axis powers in 1945 ending World War II in Europe, another curtain was rising on a drama which has since been labeled the Cold War.

The Allies watched as the Soviet Union established and maintained a sphere of influence in Eastern Europe, building on their control of nations which they had already occupied in the process of removing Nazi Germany's control of the region.

Over the decade to follow, both the Western powers and the Soviet Union established their own structures of power and control, each nervously facing the other. By 1955, the political map of Europe could be divided into three groups of countries — those allied with the West as members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; those under the Soviet Union's control and thus comprising the Warsaw Pact countries, and the nonaligned countries.

## Map Exercise

Below is a map of Europe. Each of the nations is clearly labeled. Using colored pencils, identify the states which were NATO countries by 1955 in blue; shade the countries which were Warsaw countries by 1955 in red; and the nations which were nonaligned during that year in yellow. (You will have to use outside sources for some of your information.)

