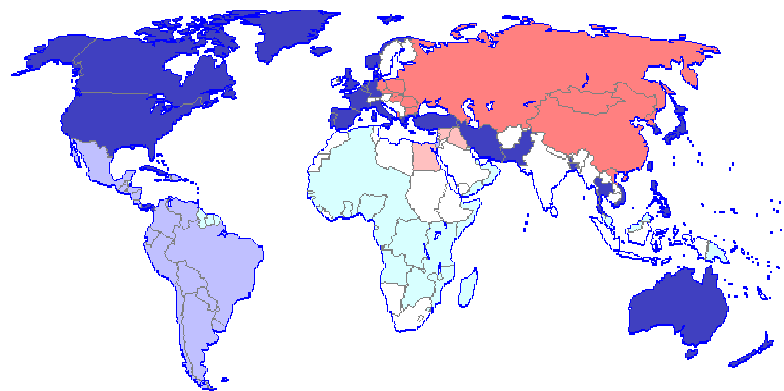


СОИТДИИМЕНТ and its Criticisms



Containment—the use of military, diplomatic, and economic pressure to prevent the spread of communism.

This became not only the most important foreign policy concern of the United States, but the policy that determined our relationships with the rest of the world. We saw Latin America, Africa, and Asia (and certainly the Middle East) through the eyes of its impact on our relationship with the USSR.

Lippmann's criticisms of the policy of containment

- (1) Russia expanded its influence after WWII not because of communism, but because of its Red Army.
- (2) The only way to end the Cold War is to effect a withdrawal of Russian and American soldiers back to their own territories. Without this, the Cold War will still rage; with it, there is no real reason for its existence.
- (3) Providing economic support to nations around the world (in an attempt to strengthen them in the face of communist expansion) would break our bank.
- (4) It allows the Russians to determine when and where the conflicts will take place. We will be reacting to their movements—they will always have been there first.
- (5) American military power is built for lightning strikes that devastate its targets, not for long occupation of territories (which containment would require).
- (6) The American people would tire of containment long before Russia would.
- (7) We would seek out weak allies around the world (a liability), and alienate our natural allies in western Europe.