

Description of Marshall Plan by Soviet Propagandists, 1948

“... The American capitalists want to use the help of the Marshall Plan to overwhelm Europe and bring it into subjection to them. The government of the Soviet Union at once recognized the real meaning of the Marshall Plan, and definitely refused to take part in setting it up. So also did the governments of the other democratic lands---Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Hungary, and also Finland. But sixteen European states adopted the Marshall Plan against the wishes of their peoples...

... Their purpose there, too, is quite understandable: clearly, the U.S.A. considers Western Germany as its colony...

The American capitalists counted on using the Marshall Plan to stir up trouble between the peoples of the democratic countries and the Soviet Union. The Americans proposed to these countries as follows: “We will give you dollars if only you will abandon your friendship with the Soviet Union. But if you don’t, we won’t give you anything.” But the peoples of these countries did not fall for the American capitalists’ trick. They answered the Americans: “We will not exchange our freedom and independence for dollars....”

But this isn’t all. The American capitalists have still another dastardly aim. After using the Marshall Plan to reduce the European countries, they want to unite them in a military alliance for a future war against the democratic states.

The Marshall Plan is highly profitable to the United States. For the European countries it brings only poverty...”

Based on the passage above, complete the following tasks:

1. Briefly explain the author’s thesis.
2. Place this document in historical context. What events provoked the writing of this document?
3. What is the “point of view” of the writer?