

## **President Truman's Address before a Joint Session of Congress March 12, 1947**

“I am fully aware of the broad implications involved in the United States extends assistance to Greece and Turkey, and I shall discuss these implications with you at this time. . . .

To insure the peaceful development of nations, free from coercion, the United States has taken a leading part in establishing the United Nations... We shall not realize our objectives, however, unless we are willing to help free peoples to maintain their free institutions and their national integrity against aggressive movements that seek to impose upon them totalitarian regimes. [Applause.] This is no more than a frank recognition that totalitarian regimes imposed upon free peoples, by direct or indirect aggression, undermine the foundations of international peace and hence the security of the United States. . . .

The Government of the United States has made frequent protests against coercion and intimidation, in violation of the Yalta Agreement, in Poland, Rumania, and Bulgaria. I must also state that in a number of other countries there have been similar developments. . . .

I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.

I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid, which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes. . . .

If we falter in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world---and we shall surely endanger the welfare of our own Nation.”

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” the writer?