

## Document B

Source: Map created from various sources.

**1.** At the end of WW II, Germany was occupied by four major powers. The western three zones unified and became West Germany. East Germany was communist, but the old capital of Berlin was divided up between the four powers.

**2.** On June 27, 1948, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union decided to blockade any shipments (including food) coming into West Berlin.

**3.** West Berlin was completely surrounded by communism and may have had to surrender if it had not been for the US and its allies.

**4.** America and its allies decide to support the West Berliners by air, flying in supplies for the over two million people for nearly a year. Everything from food to coal was provided. It was a stunning turn of events given that Americans had just three years earlier been fighting Hitler and the Germans.

**5.** On May 12, 1949, Stalin removed the blockade. Harry Truman and the nation were thrilled.

**Legend:**  
 West Germany  
 East Germany  
 Airlift Routes  
 Soviet Blockade  
 Airfields

EV

## Document Analysis

1. "In 1948, western Berlin was a pro-American island in a Soviet sea." Explain.
2. What did the Soviets do between June 27, 1948, and May 12, 1949?
3. Why do you suppose the Soviets did what they did?
4. How did Britain, the United States, and France respond to the June 27th action?
5. How does this document demonstrate the American policy of containment?