

Activity | How a Cold War Airlift Saved Berlin With Food, Medicine and Chocolate – Outline

Background: A Soviet blockade around Berlin cut the divided city off from the West. But in 1948 U.S. and British pilots began to fly food, fuel and medicine to the Allied sectors. In explaining the geo-political struggle underlying the airlift, this video is useful for introducing Cold War politics.

Objective: Construct an outline, using evidence from the video and activities, to respond to the writing prompt.

After watching the Retro Report film "[How a Cold War Airlift Saved Berlin With Food, Medicine and Chocolate](#)" ([Transcript](#)), construct an outline to address the prompt below:

How did the Berlin Airlift affect America's popularity in Europe, and across the world?

Topic Sentence:	The Berlin Airlift helped the United States avoid retreat or war by bringing supplies to West Berlin to counter the Soviet blockade. OR The Berlin Airlift solidified the United States' alliance with Western European democracies.
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Supporting evidence should be drawn from the video, accompanying primary sources or other knowledge from the course.

Supporting Evidence #1:	Stalin feared that the American aid sent to Europe through the Marshall Plan threatened his hold over Communist Eastern Europe. In 1947, U.S. President Harry Truman announced support for people resisting communism.
Supporting Evidence #2:	Stalin ordered a blockade to cut off West Berlin from the rest of Europe. In response to the Soviet blockade, Western democracies began to airlift whatever supplies they could to West Berlin.
Supporting Evidence #3:	Airplanes took off in 3 minute intervals during the Berlin Airlift to deliver supplies. The Berlin Airlift delivered 23 tons of chocolate that helped hungry people in West Berlin.

Supporting Evidence #4:	Stalin lifted the blockade in 1949 and American popularity soared across the world. NATO was the defining alliance of the Cold War and helps democracies cooperate.
Concluding Sentence:	By countering the Soviet blockade and bringing supplies to the people of West Berlin, the Berlin Airlift helped the United States achieve success during the Cold War. OR The Berlin Airlift provided humanitarian aid that solidified the United States' alliance with Western Europe.