

THE MARSHALL PLAN

A Story in Pictures



AP/WWP

A young girl at a spring fair in Vienna, Austria, in 1951, holds a bouquet of hydrogen-filled balloons advertising the Marshall Plan. Reading “Peace, Freedom, Welfare” in German, the balloons were released by visitors at the fair, carrying postcards expressing the hope that “someday goods and products will flow freely across the countries of a united and prosperous Europe” into the Eastern Bloc. The balloons were one of many ways America and its allies strived to counter negative Soviet propaganda against the reconstruction and economic development plan.

Delivering the Goods

This map depicts countries participating in the Marshall Plan in Western Europe. While Eastern European nations were discouraged by the Soviet Union from participating, virtually all of Western Europe joined the European Recovery Program at its inception in June 1948. West Germany joined a year later once it regained a measure of self-government.



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A jeep carrying the banner “strength for the free world” is loaded at Baltimore harbor in 1951 for Marshall Plan use.

U.S. Ambassador to France Jefferson Caffery, at the microphone, delivers a speech in Bordeaux in honor of the first shipload of American aid delivered to France under the Marshall Plan on May 10, 1948.



AP/WWP

Rebuilding



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With help from the Marshall Plan, Greece was able to accelerate mining of its bauxite reserves to provide raw materials for European aluminum production and supplies as part of European reconstruction and economic recovery.



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Dutch road workers take a break from the relentless task of reclaiming land. In the Netherlands, Marshall Plan funds helped to reclaim lands devastated by World War II and build roads essential to transport relief supplies across Europe.



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A public housing project under construction in Matera, Italy, built by the Italian government with Marshall Plan funds in 1951.