

## NATO in 1955: A Map Activity

### Critical Thinking Questions

1. How did the alliances that formed in Europe after World War II form an "iron curtain," as described by Winston Churchill in a 1946 speech?
2. Where are there "cracks" in the iron curtain as seen on the map?
3. Based on the map, what do you think led the nations of Western Europe to form NATO?
4. Using the map as the basis for your response, why, do you think, did the Soviet Union feel it had to take control of the Eastern European nations of East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, and Bulgaria?

Find a current map of Europe in your textbook. Compare it with the map above and list the nations that have gained independence or have emerged since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

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Use your textbook or other resources to label the map below by placing the country names in or near the correct nations, color code the alliances using the key below, and then answer the critical thinking questions on the next page (pg 549)

### Color Code Key:



NATO countries



Neutral nations



Warsaw Pact nations



Other communist nations (Yugoslavia)

