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American Foreign Policy Since World War II

John W. Spanier

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Professor Spanier reviews postwar events from the breakdown of the wartime coalition with the Soviet Union, through the beginning of the Cold War and the subsequent efforts of the Truman and Eisenhower administrations to contain Communist expansion, right up to the Berlin crisis and the collapse of the Paris summit conference in May 1960. Within this reconstruction of the principal events of the period, he carefully depicts the general development of American foreign policy in Europe, Asia and the Middle East; the objectives sought by the United States; the political, military, economic and social policies it pursued in an attempt to achieve these objectives; and the inter-relationship of the policies and the impact of the actions in one area upon those in another. He has presented an excellent answer in depth to the question of how the balance sheet of achievement and failure stands today and of how well equipped America is to face the crucial challenges of the 1960's.