

# Incorporating Analysis

Excerpted from *Pivotal Politics - The Marshall Plan: A Turning Point in Foreign Aid and the Struggle for Democracy*

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In 1947, post-World War II (WWII) Europe saw the growing threat of communism and declining economies. This economic and political environment caused President Harry Truman and Secretary of State George Marshall to devise the European Recovery Plan, or ERP. The ERP was an economic stimulus program that injected over \$13 billion into the struggling economies of Western Europe.

*This program, now referred to as the “Marshall Plan,” marked a turning point in American foreign policy. It was a reversal from post-World War I (WWI) isolationism and generated long-lasting relations with other nations.*

**The Marshall Plan was founded on President Woodrow Wilson’s ideas of multilateralism<sup>i</sup> or international cooperation in economic and diplomatic affairs.** Economic prosperity keeps peace throughout the world, and a country with a good economy has little incentive to attack other nations.<sup>ii</sup> Wilson proposed that reducing tariffs would facilitate peace.<sup>iii</sup> Since multilateralism places all countries on an equal footing in trade (in contrast to bilateralism, which favors one country over other), it encourages prosperity throughout the world. Countries with strong trading relationships are unlikely to wage war against their partners because it would damage the well-being of their citizens.

**However, despite Wilson’s efforts, Congress rejected multilateralism because Great Britain, one of the US’s strongest allies, disapproved.** To protect its colonial interests, Britain created the Sterling Bloc—or the Commonwealth—which reduced tariffs on British colonies including South Africa, India, and Australia.<sup>iv</sup> Britain benefitted immensely from this arrangement, which would have been jeopardized by the US reducing tariffs on other nations as a result of greater competition and decreased profitability.<sup>v</sup> Britain’s pressure caused Wilson’s idea of multilateralism to die in a stack of unsigned bills

The highlighted green text is informative information that will inform the thesis.

The thesis, in italics, is not just a statement. Rather, it makes an argument that the body of the paper will support.

The bold text indicates the topic sentence of the paragraph, which in this case connects the Marshall Plan with the concept of multilateralism.

The highlighted blue text indicates cited material from a research source.

The underlined text is analysis, which separates a good project from a great one. In this paragraph, the author *connects* the Marshall Plan to his source evidence regarding multilateralism, and *explains* why multilateralism matters by contrasting it with unilateralism. The analysis *relates* back to the author’s thesis by demonstrating how the Marshall Plan facilitated relations between nations.

In the second paragraph, the topic sentence in bold explains why other multilateral agreements failed.

The highlighted blue, once again, is paraphrased, cited source material.

The analysis in this paragraph *connects* the failure of multilateralism to the source evidence regarding the relationship between Great Britain and the US, *explains* why the relationship between the two countries affected multilateralism. The analysis also *relates* to the author’s thesis by demonstrating that the Marshall Plan truly was a turning point in American foreign policy.

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## Notes

<sup>i</sup> Freeland, Richard M., *The Truman Doctrine and the Origins of McCarthyism*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf Inc., 1970, Print.

<sup>ii</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15-17.

<sup>iii</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>iv</sup> Northrup, Cynthia and Turney, Elaine, *Encyclopeia of Tariffs and Trade in US History, Volume 1*, West Port, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2003, Print.

<sup>v</sup> *Ibid.*